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## **Device Containing Radioactive Materials Stolen in Los Angeles County**

LOS ANGELES --A moisture-density gauge containing radioactive materials was reported stolen today in Torrance. Los Angeles County Health Department officials say that the gauge is not dangerous as long as the device is not broken.

“The radiation levels outside the carrying case, or even near the gauge itself, are not hazardous,” said Jonathan Fielding, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Public Health and County Health Officer. “We are concerned that someone may try to break open the device and be exposed to the radioactive materials.”

The device contains two radioactive sealed sources. These sources are ceramic pellets, double sealed in stainless steel. These sources are sealed within the device, and would be very hard to remove. The primary hazard, should the sources be removed, would be to the skin or from inhaling or ingesting the radioactive material.

The gauge is in an orange plastic case and is approximately 24 inches long, 19 inches high, 16 inches wide, and weighs about 88 pounds with the device inside. The container does have a radiation symbol on the outside. The gauge itself is also orange, with a keypad, and a black cylindrical tube about 12 inches long, ½ inch in diameter, and weighs about 31 pounds.

Moisture-density gauges are used at construction sites. The device was stolen from a private vehicle.

A photograph of this device can be found at [www.cpn-intl.com](http://www.cpn-intl.com) (under Products & Services).

If anyone sees this device or its carrying case, they should contact the Torrance Police Department at (310) 328-3456.

Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control and community and family health and comprises more than 3,800 employees with an annual budget exceeding \$600 million.